

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CALCUT 02350 070447Z

20

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SCS-01 L-01 RSC-01 SCA-01 SY-04

CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 JUSE-00 IO-04

/040 W

----- 016267

O R 070412Z NOV 74

FM AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

SECSTATE WASHDC 4242

C O N F I D E N T I A L CALCUTTA 2350

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, PFOR, IN

SUBJ: HARCOS/FLETCHER - MEETING WITH LAWYER BHOSE IN LONDON

REF: LONDON 14448

1. B. K. BHOSE IS DEFENSE LAWYER FOR U.S. CITIZEN ANTHONY FLETCHER WHO, ALONG WITH U.S. CITIZEN RICHARD HARCOS WAS ARRESTED IN APRIL 1973 FOR ALLEGED VIOLATION OF THE INDIAN OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT. HARCOS WAS PICKED UP IN A PROHIBITED AREA UNDER SUSPICINSHCIRCUMSTANCES ON THE CALCUTTA WATER FRONT; FLETCHER WAS ARRESTED IN HIS HOTEL; BOTH ARE CHARGED WITH CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT ESPIONAGE FOR AN UN-NAMES COUNTRY.

2. THE PRISONERS NOW CLAIM THEY WERE ENGAGED IN DRUG SMUGGLING AND HAVE GIVEN A LENGTHY AND DETAILED ACCOUNT TO THEIR LAWYERS. UNFORTUNATELY, THEY REFUSED TO SAY ANYTHING FOR OVER A YEAR AFTER THEIR ARREST, DURING WHICH TIME THE WEST BENGAL STATE GOVERNMENT, WITH GOI SANCTION, CARRIED ON AN EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION, DEVELOPED AN ELABORATE CASE BASED ON CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE, AND PUT THE CASE BEFORE THE COURTS. IT APPEARS THE THE PRISONERS' DEFENSE WILL BE AN ATTEMPT TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CALCUT 02350 070447Z

PROVE THAT THEY WERE SMUGGLING DRUGS AND NOT RPT NOT

COMMITTING ESPIONAGE.

3. AFTER THE LENGTHY INVESTIGATION AND EXTENSIVE PRE-TRIAL PROCEEDINGS, AN IN CAMERA TRIAL WAS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON DECEMBER 16, 1974. WE WERE GRANTED CONSULAR ACCESS TO THE TRIAL AFTER A LONG SERIES OF HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIONS TO THE GOI AND THE STATE GOVERNMENT, BUT THE PROCEEDINGS WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL, AND THE DOCUMENTATION OF THE PROSECUTION'S CASE IS CONFIDENTIAL AND ACCESS TO IT IS STRICTLY LIMITED. WE ASSUME THAT THE DOCUMENTS SEIZED FROM BHOSE WERE EITHER COPIES OR NOTES TAKEN FROM THE DOCUMENTATION OF THE CASE.

4. OUR PRINCIPAL INTEREST (NEW DELHI'S AND CALCUTTA'S) IS IN LEARNING FROM BHOSE WHAT MATERIALS HE WAS TAKING WITH HIM WHICH ARE NOW IN THE HANDS OF THE CALCUTTA AUTHORITIES, AND HIS ASSESSMENT OF WHAT EFFECT THIS MAY HAVE ON THE CASE.

5. YOU SHOULD NOT RPT NOT MENTION MY CONVERSATION WITH THE CHIEF MINISTER OF WEST BENGAL (NEW DELHI 4878) OR SPECULATE ON THE DEGREE OF TROUBLE BHOSE MAY BE IN UPON HIS RETURN OR THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES FOR HIM PERSONALLY.

PICKERING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CALCUT02350
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740319-0959
From: CALCUTTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741164/aaaaccab.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: LONDON 14448
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <27 MAR 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HARCOS/FLETCHER - MEETING WITH LAWYER BHOSE IN LONDON
TAGS: CASC, IN, (HARCOS), (FLETCHER)
To: LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005